UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Feedback to Academic Departments on Assessment Activities Reported in __2013-14_____

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT Political Science and Public Adminis	stration		DATE	_2/6/15
PROGRAM(S) COVERED IN REVIEWB.A. Po	litical Scien	ce and B.S.P	P.A. Public Adn	ninistration
COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) CONDUCTING REVI	EW Sure	jit Gupta an	d Mary K. Ask	im-Lovseth
1. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS				
Were any goals referenced?If so, were goals well articulated?Do goals address student learning?	YES_X _ YES_X_ YES_X_	NO	QUALIFIED QUALIFIED QUALIFIED	Y/N
Comments:				
The Department offers two undergraduate majors, both shari goals related to skills and the fourth to content, "Students wil being educated." The language of the content goal reflected reviewed, three goals were assessed for both programs—critical content goals were goals	l develop an applicability	understanding to each of the	g of the disciplin majors. For the	e in which they are academic year
Student learning goals are well articulated.				
The most recent Assessment Plan posted was May 2011.				
In addition to the program goals, please also consider UND's (shown in alignment within parentheses) and identify which g X1 Communication – written or oral ("able to write a X2 Thinking and reasoning – critical thinking (or "bare a strength of the strengt	goals are siminand speak in verification in the intellectual of th	lar to program various setting y curious"; an ly creative"; e ical dataan ctive, efficient t understandir	n goals. gs with a sense of alyze, synthesize explore, discoveralyze graphical it, and ethical users.")	of purpose/audience") te, evaluate) r, engage) information")
Comments regarding program goals and alignment with ins	titutional and	d Essential St	udies goals:	
The three student learning goals that relate to skills directly and 3). The narrative of the plan indicated the Department for foster intellectual curiosity and creativity." Though not explicitly	aculty believe	s "the develop	oment of critical	thinking abilities
2. ASSESSMENT METHODS				
Were any specific assessment methods referenced? • If so, were specifically chosen assessment methods appropriately aligned with individual	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED '	Y/N
goals?	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED '	Y/N
 Were both direct and indirect assessment methods used as components of a "multiple measures" approach? 	YES_X	_ NO	QUALIFIED '	Y/N

Comments:

The Department used both indirect and direct methods. For the two degrees within the undergraduate program, assessment was conducted within the context of Senior Colloquium (capstone) course. For direct assessment, the Department used "papers that student write and present as the main artifacts for evaluation." The Department used "the paper to assess critical thinking and written communication." Assessment was then "conducted through the application of two rubrics adopted by the university for this purpose. Oral communication was also assessed using a university-developed rubric but the artifact in this case is the formal presentation of the research project." For the written and oral communication rubric, the benchmark is '2' for each dimension (range of 0-3); for critical thinking, the benchmark is '1' (range of 0-2).

For indirect assessment, the Department used a 'course mapping' exercise that asked students to rate, using a five-point scale, how well each core course achieved the four goals (5, extremely well and 1, not well at all). The benchmark is 2.5.

3. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Were any assessment results reported?	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N
• If so, were the results clear in terms of how they specifically affirm achievement of goals?	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N
 If so, were the results clear in terms of how they indicate need for improvement? 	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N
 Were the results tied to goals for student learning? 	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N

Comments:

The Department presented means for each of the dimensions for the three skills; the data were differentiated by program. Faculty saw no distinct differences between the programs regarding student performance. The percentage of students who achieved the benchmark for each skill dimension were also reported but with no differentiation by program. The percentages ranged from 84 to 90. For critical thinking, a percentage was reported of those students who achieve the outstanding rating of 2 on each dimension (range of 53 to 56%). The Department tracked this to determine the gap between satisfactory and outstanding as its idealistic goal is to have all students at the outstanding level for critical thinking.

The student course mapping survey, which is the Department's indirect assessment measure, was completed for both programs and the mean data reported separately. For the Political Science program, the early courses in a student's program enhanced the oral communication skill the least; but the capstone course had its greatest impact on this skill (mean of 3.97). Fewer courses were reported for the Public Administration program and oral communication was again noted as the skill that was enhanced the least in particular courses.

In addition to program goals, some assessment results may be applicable to institutional and Essential Studies goals. Indicate any goals for which the program presents findings, and, for indicated items, describe findings below. X1 Communication – written or oral ("able to write and speak in various settings with a sense of purpose/audience") X2 Thinking and reasoning – critical thinking (or "be intellectually curious"; analyze, synthesize, evaluate) 3 Thinking and reasoning – creative thinking (or "be intellectually creative"; explore, discover, engage)
4 Thinking and reasoning – quantitative reasoning ("apply empirical dataanalyze graphical information") 5 Information literacy ("be able to access and evaluatefor effective, efficient, and ethical use")
6 Diversity ("demonstrate understanding of diversity and use that understanding") 7 Lifelong learning ("commit themselves to lifelong learning") 8 Service/citizenship ("share responsibility both for their communities and for the world")

Comments regarding results and the application of results to program, institutional, and Essential Studies goals:

The Department presented results on both communication and critical thinking for both programs.

4. CLOSING THE LOOP

Were any actions taken on the basis of assessment results reported? • If so, do curricular or other improvements/ changes arising from assessment results directly address goals for student learning?	YESYES_	NO NO	QUALIFIED Y/N _X QUALIFIED Y/N _X
Comments:	1 LS	_ 110	QUILLIED INV_X
Department faculty discussed the assessment results in early drop in critical thinking skills may have been as a result of it between instructors) so this will be monitored. There will be presentations" into the 200 level courses but no actual plan implement.	nstructor chang e an attempt to	ge (i.e., peda "integrate o	agogy or teaching style may be differer opportunities for formal oral
SUMMARY Strengths		Areas	for Improvement
X A specific plan for assessment is in placeX_ Student learning goals are well-articulatedX_ Assessment methods are clearly describedX_ Assessment methods are appropriately selectedX_ Assessment methods are well-implementedX_ Direct and indirect methods are implementedX_ Results are reported Results are tied to closing the loop (Decision-making is tied to evidence.)	Studen Assess Assess A sing No res Results	at learning go sment metho sment metho sment metho cle type of as sults are repos s are not clear	or assessment is in place. oals are not well-articulated. ds are not clearly described. ds are not appropriately selected. ds are not well-implemented. assessment methods predominates. orted. arly tied to closing the loop. is not directly tied to evidence.)
OVERALL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION	ONS:		
The Department does well with its assessment process for its regarding the results.	s two programs	s. It systema	tically collects data and has a dialogu
It would be helpful if the student learning goal related to corknowledge outcomes. This would assist with closing the loop expectations. Related to this, the Assessment Plan noted the entry-level course for both programs and would not be the b discipline in which they are being educated." Selection of a more appropriate as the student learning goals reflect the coit was "common practice" for students in the capstone to propresentations were assessed. If the Department uses the preto include this in the plan.	p activities, knouse of POLS 1 seest choice to de nartifact or competencies to epare and delivers	owing what on the standard of the assess the standard of the s	concepts were/were not meeting the content goal. This course is an students' "understanding of the er to the end of each program would b at programs' end. The plan noted tha in POLS 115 and that their
MATERIALS REVIEWED			
X Annual assessment report Annual ReportX Assessment plan (as posted)X Previous assessment review Other (please describe)			

Reviewer(s):	Name Department Phone Number e-mail	Surojit Gupta Mechanical Engineering 777-1632 surojit.gupta@und.edu	Mary K. Askim-Lovseth Marketing 777-2930 maskim@business.und.edu
Section 1:Y	Y Section 2:Y	Section 3: _Y Section	on 4:Q
Coding Key:			
Y			nd the kind of program(s) reviewed and recognizing kinds of data to be collected and analyzed in other
Q	= qualified yes as action appropriately done	or progress is apparent; however	er, evidence is lacking that this is completely and
N	= no, it is unclear whether	er it was done at all, or it is not	done in relationship to student learning

Revised Sept 24, 2014

UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Feedback to Academic Departments on Assessment Activities Reported in _2013-14__

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT Political Science and Public Adm	$ninistration_$		DATE 2/6/15	
PROGRAM(S) COVERED IN REVIEWMast	ers in Public	c Administra	tion	
COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) CONDUCTING REVI	IEW Sure	ojit Gupta an	d Mary K. Askim-Lovseth	ı
1. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS				
Were any goals referenced?If so, were goals well-articulated?Do goals address student learning?	YES_ <i>X</i>	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N QUALIFIED Y/N QUALIFIED Y/N	
Comments:				
The Assessment Plan posted was updated March 2012 as a re universal competencies" adopted by the program's accredition objectives, and reported working on aligning those objectives (noted in the Annual Report, but the Plan indicated five compeycle to assess all of the objectives and is nearing completion. The student learning objectives for the program are embedde	ng body, NAS s with the 21 to petencies). The a of another c	PAA. The proindicators/dim ne Department ycle.	ogram has five student learn nensions over four competen t has traditionally used a two	ing cy areas o-year
Assessment Plan, only the competencies.				
2. ASSESSMENT METHODS				
 Were any specific assessment methods referenced? If so, were specifically chosen assessment methods appropriately aligned with individual goals? Were both direct and indirect assessment methods used as components of a "multiple measures" approach? 	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N	
	YES_ <i>X</i> YES_ <i>X</i>		QUALIFIED Y/N	
Comments:				
The Department used a matrix in the Assessment Plan to align of the competencies. Direct methods were numerous—comps survey and interview, independent studies, and independent survey and surveys of alumni, government officials, and superused with some benchmarks being noted.	s, cases, exam tudy and othe	n questions, pa er presentation	pers, pre/post questionnaire ns. Indirect methods include	es, diversit _. ed an exit
3. ASSESSMENT RESULTS				
Were any assessment results reported?	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N	
 If so, were the results clear in terms of how they specifically affirm achievement of goals? If so, were the results clear in terms of how 	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N	
they indicate need for improvement? • Were the results tied to goals for student	YES	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N _X	
learning?	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N	

Comments:

The Department selected to report on one of the competencies, "To articulate and apply a public service perspective." This competency had four indicators/dimensions of competency. It was noted how each competency aligned with the program's specific student learning objectives.

The first dimension, appreciating competing values, was assessed with an exam question using a rubric that had a four-point scale (1, high; 4, low). The mean of the ten students sampled was 2.27. The pass rate of the comprehensive exam was used to assess the second dimension--an understanding of public administration, its frameworks and perspectives. The pass rate of Summer 2012 through Summer 2013 students was 87.5%; the pass rate for Fall 2013 through Summer 2014 was 100%. The third dimension related to diversity and the Department has been collecting data for almost two years using a diversity awareness questionnaire as a pre- and post-measure as the student progresses through the program. Though no data were reported from this measure for diversity, other indirect results were provided that came from supervisors of MPA graduates. On a five-point scale of '1' being excellent and '5' being poor, the mean responses to two of the questions that related to equipping students and the graduates working with clients from diverse groups and populations were 2.5 and 2.0, respectively. The fourth dimension, relating to the profession's code of ethics, was assessed with a case study artifact from a sampling of students from Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters. The Assessment Plan indicated a rubric was to be used as the measurement tool. Percentage of responses meeting the standard were 50, 40, and 10. It was unclear if the rubric had three distinct criteria related to the dimension that would align with the percentages. The indirect measures for this dimension were graduate and employer surveys. Results reported were a mean rating of 1.11 on a five-point scale (1, excellent; 5, poor).

It is not clear how the Department is using these results to specifically identify the need for improvement as the Department seems to be in the process of evaluating the results, for example in competency areas 3 and 4.

4. CLOSING THE LOOP

Were any actions taken on the basis of assessment			
results reported?	YES	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N _X _
 If so, do curricular or other improvements/ changes arising from assessment results directly address goals for student learning? 	YES	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N _X

Comments:

The Department is in the process of reviewing the results to determine closing the loop activities. Comments were provided of past activities, such as adding a case assignment on an ethical issue. Results indicated a need for improved pedagogy and/or a better evaluative tool. With high passage rates for the comprehensive exam, no specific actions have been taken.

SUMMARY

Strengths Areas for Improvement A specific plan for assessment is in place. No specific plan for assessment is in place. _X__Student learning goals are well-articulated. ____ Student learning goals are not well-articulated. ____ Assessment methods are not clearly described. _X__Assessment methods are clearly described. ____Assessment methods are appropriately selected. _____ Assessment methods are not appropriately selected. __Assessment methods are well-implemented. ____ Assessment methods are not well-implemented. _ A single type of assessment methods predominates. Direct and indirect methods are implemented. Results are reported. No results are reported. Results are tied to closing the loop. X Results are not clearly tied to closing the loop. (Decision-making is tied to evidence.) (Decision-making is not directly tied to evidence.)

OVERALL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Department has developed a more comprehensive assessment plan for the MPA program since its last review and the Committee acknowledges its efforts. The data that are collected should provide insight into improvements for the program that can enhance student learning. The Department noted one area of concern, "understand and apply profession's code of ethics to situations and decisions."

With competencies determined by an accrediting body, it can be difficult to directly align these competencies with a program's student learning objectives. It would be helpful to identify the objectives in the Assessment Plan and illustrate how the data collected for the competencies will be linked to the objectives for loop closing.

MATERIALS	REVIEWED		
Annual 1 X_ Assessme	ent plan (as posted) assessment review		
Reviewer(s):	Name Department Phone Number e-mail	Surojit Gupta Mechanical Engineering 777-1632 <u>surojit.gupta@und.edu</u>	Mary K. Askim-Lovseth Marketing 777-2930 maskim@business.und.edu
Coding Key:		Section 3:Y Section 4:Q	the kind of program(s) reviewed and recognizing
Q	that assessment is a cyc = qualified yes as actic appropriately done	lical process, i.e., with additional kin	nds of data to be collected in other years) evidence is lacking that this is completely and

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UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Feedback to Academic Departments on Assessment Activities Reported in _2013-14__ (Academic year)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT_Political Science & Public Administration				DATE_04/29/15		
PROGRAM(S) COVERED IN REVIEW : Certifica Public Administration, and Health Care Administra		cial I	Entreprend	eurship, Public Policy Analysis,		
COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) CONDUCTING REV	IEW	Suro	jit Gupta a	and Mary K. Askim-Lovseth		
1. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS						
Were any goals referenced?If so, were goals well-articulated?Do goals address student learning?	YES	X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N QUALIFIED Y/N QUALIFIED Y/N		
Comments:						
The four graduate level certificate programs have a new Assefiled new plans with University Assessment Office on Septems was embedded in the MPA assessment plan. The Departmen noted that students will be assessed under the new plan Sprin assessed under the old plan. According to the assessment plan, each certificate has a resp knowledge and/or skills. The annual report referenced two get This should be clarified if additional goals were added.	ber 9, 20. t indicate ig 2015. I ective go	13). P ed a tro t is as al that	rior to this, ansition to the sumed that it trelates to the	the assessment of the four programs he new plan by Fall 2016, yet it was in the interim current students must be the field of study that addresses		
2. ASSESSMENT METHODS						
Were any specific assessment methods referenced? • If so, were specifically chosen assessment methods appropriately aligned with individual	YES	X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N		
 goals? Were both direct and indirect assessment methods used as components of a "multiple measures" approach? 				QUALIFIED Y/N		
Comments:						
The assessment plan indicated both direct and indirect assess portfolio project (paper from each class), oral presentation of competency." It is noted that a rubric will be used to assess noted an exit survey. It is unclear if this is an additional indiand the same.	of the port the prese	tfolio, ntatio	and a "refle n and artifac	ective statement related to the cts. In addition, the annual report		
3. ASSESSMENT RESULTS						
Were any assessment results reported? If so, were the results clear in terms of how.	YES]	NO_X_	QUALIFIED Y/N		
 If so, were the results clear in terms of how they specifically affirm achievement of goals? 	YES	1	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N		

 If so, were the results clear in terms of how they indicate need for improvement? Were the results tied to goals for student learning? 	YES NO QUALIFIED Y/N YES NO QUALIFIED Y/N		
Comments:			
No results were reported.			
4. CLOSING THE LOOP			
Were any actions taken on the basis of assessment results reported? • If so, do curricular or other improvements/ changes arising from assessment results directly address goals for student learning?	YES NOX_ QUALIFIED Y/N YES NO QUALIFIED Y/N		
Comments:			
No closing the loop comments were noted.			
SUMMARY Strengths	Areas for Improvement		
_X A specific plan for assessment is in place Student learning goals are well-articulatedX Assessment methods are clearly describedX Assessment methods are appropriately selected Assessment methods are well-implemented Direct and indirect methods are implemented Results are reported Results are tied to closing the loop (Decision-making is tied to evidence.)	tedStudent learning goals are not well-articulated. bedAssessment methods are not clearly described. selectedAssessment methods are not appropriately selected. ntedAssessment methods are not well-implemented.		
OVERALL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION	ONS:		
results when they are put in place. It seems that the Departm MPA assessment plan encompassed the certificate since stude	ch certificate. The Committee is looking forward to seeing the ent did not report any assessment of student learning when the ents are not being assessed until Spring 2015 under the new plan. If to the posted plans as there was reference to additional goals in		
MATERIALS REVIEWED			
X Annual assessment report Annual reportX Assessment plan (as posted) Previous assessment review Other (please describe)			

Reviewer(s): Name Surojit Gupta Mary K. Askim-Lovseth Department Mechanical Engineering Marketing Phone Number 777-1632 777-2930 maskim@business.und.edu e-mail surojit.gupta@und.edu ______ Section 1: __Y__ Section 2: __Y__ Section 3: __N__ Section 4: __N__ Coding Key: = yes, this is done appropriately and well (bearing in mind the kind of program(s) reviewed and recognizing that assessment is a cyclical process, i.e., with additional kinds of data to be collected in other years) = qualified yes as action or progress is apparent; however, evidence is lacking that this is completely and Q appropriately done

N = no, it is unclear whether it was done at all, or it is not done in relationship to student learning

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